



# BHEW Bulletin

March 2011

## How Does Missouri Compare in...

**Drunk Driving:** In Missouri 34% of traffic fatalities result from alcohol impairment compared to a national average of 32%. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that about 350 individuals lose their lives annually on Missouri roadways due to drunk driving.<sup>1</sup>



**Binge Drinking:** Binge drinking is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion. Over 24% of Missourians age 12 and older engaged in binge drinking in the last month. This peaked in the 18-25 age group with almost 45% reporting binging in the last month.<sup>2</sup> The national average for binge drinking is 23%.



**Marijuana Use:** Marijuana is the second most common substance of abuse (behind alcohol) for those entering treatment in Missouri. An estimated 5.5% of Missourians age 12 and older have used marijuana in the past month.<sup>2</sup> The national average is 5.9%.



**Tobacco Use:** Almost 34% of Missourians age 12 and older are current tobacco users. 29% use cigarettes while the remainder use smokeless tobacco (i.e., chewing tobacco or snuff), cigars, or pipe tobacco.<sup>2</sup> This compares to a national tobacco use average of 25%.



**Prescription drug abuse:** Prescription drug abuse is becoming an increasing concern across the country. For those Missourians age 18 to 25, an estimated 12.5% have used pain relievers for nonmedical purposes in the past year. For those 12 and older, the Missouri average is 5% and the national average is 5.1%.<sup>2</sup>



**Serious psychological distress:** Serious psychological distress (SPD) is defined as having a score of 13 or higher on the K6 scale. 13% of Missourians age 18 or older report having had an episode of SPD in the last 30 days. This compares to a national average just below 11%.<sup>2</sup>



**Major Depressive episode:** 8.6% of Missourians age 18 or older have reported a major depressive episode in the last year. This is compared to the national average of 7.3% for the same age group.<sup>2</sup>



**Bullying:** 23% of Missouri high school students report being bullied on school property in the last year. The national average is 20%.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/STSI/29\\_MO/2009/29\\_MO\\_2009.htm](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/STSI/29_MO/2009/29_MO_2009.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7State/Missouri.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx> - 2009 data